



southern california dx club

October 2003



FLASH

**IT HAS BEEN
REPORTED
THAT A
SPELL HAS
BEEN CAST
ON OL'SOL
CAUSING
SPOTS.**

YEA!

Soap Box— Words from our President

At the September SCDXC Club Meeting, the attending members participated and discussed an extremely important issue facing us. By now, you should at least have some familiarity with this issue; it's called **Broadband over Power Lines (BPL)**.



is-

BPL is a potentially destructive threat to the Amateur Radio spectrum - especially the HF bands. There has been a lot of publicity on this issue - articles on the ARRL website (www.arrl.org/bpl)

and other ham radio sites. The ARRL is taking an extremely important role in the campaign to defeat BPL and will continue to work to protect our Amateur Radio bands. Last month's meeting was focused around how we can help. And, I think we took a great first step....

In the past couple of months, individual hams - and clubs - have responded generously to support the ARRL's efforts to fight BPL, and many have filed comments to the FCC. But there still is a need to raise additional funds to support the field measurements and document filings necessary to defeat this threat. We're all in this effort together, and the SCDXC overwhelming voted to support this campaign financially. Last month, as part of a special SCDXC Board action item, the SCDXC Board approved a club donation of \$500 to the League, and at the September SCDXC meeting, the members by an overwhelming majority voted to increase that to \$1000. In addition, following the meeting, Bob W6ZPL handed me a \$20 bill, and asked that that money be added to the club's contribution. To that

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Voice of the Veep

I enjoyed This last month's meeting, it was refreshing to just sit back and talk to people you don't get to see very often. I was glad that we were able to discuss the BPL issue and take a vote as a group, and take a stand on issues that concern all of the amateur community.



Please make sure that you send in letters to your congress person and to the state legislation voicing your concern.

In the mean time, you may want to check with Mel, K6SY, his club is having the SCE company over to discuss some issues in October. You may want to ask if you can drop by and listen in.

Next Meetings:

October 9 - David Corsiglia, WA6TWF - Presentation on the W6BH remote station. He has plenty of slides to share with us. Remote operations have been going on for more than 30 yrs, there were many pioneers. In the world of today's amateurs with all of the restrictions that are placed on Antennas and Towers, etc, it is nice to know options that can be done to help the average ham to connect to the world. David will give us some incite on how to build a remote station and use one. I am also going to provide the legal aspects for those who are card counters and want awards. Are your QSL's allowed

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E-Mail Addresses

Please let the membership chairman know when you change your e-mail address.

Next General Meeting

The SCDXC meets the second Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be held October 9, 2003 at Syd Kronenthal Park in Culver City. The park is located 4 blocks west of La Cienega Blvd. and 2 blocks south of Washington Blvd. From the 10 Freeway exit La Cienega south to Washington Blvd. Turn right (west) 4 blocks to McManus Ave (it's La Cienega Ave to the right, McManus to the left). Turn left (south) 2 blocks to the Park. The street dead-ends at the parking lot. Please do not park in the school lot.

David Corsiglia, WA6TWF - Presentation on the W6BH remote station

See ya there!

MEETING NOTES

de the secretary

As most of you probably didn't notice I was absent from the September meeting. The XYL and I spent the week in a cabin at about 8000 ft near Lake Sabrina, just outside of Bishop, CA and yes I made my limit every day.

I understand from reliable sources that we had a lively discussion on the BPL issue and that the members present voted to make a substantial donation to the ARRL for the fight against BPL.

I have been instructed by the board to prepare a letter to the ARRL to go with the donation, which should be in the mail by the time you read this in the newsletter.

I also understand that there was a raffle and that we had some good prizes, as usual but I have no idea what they are or who won any of them. I'm sure that Cathy, K6VC was one of the winners. Doesn't she win something every month?

The Visalia organizing committee started work in September and registration will begin October 15. You can get your registration forms on the web at www.scdxc.org/visalia. Volunteers are always welcome and we have plenty of work between now and April 2004. So if you are interested in helping send an e-mail to visalia@scdxc.org.

Would you like to win a **FREE** registration to the convention? All you have to do is design the winning logo for 2004. The logo contest is open to everyone and the winner will get a free registration to the 2004 convention. The only criteria we require is that the patch be no larger than 4" wide and 3" high, smaller is okay as is any shape just keep the overall dimensions smaller than 4" x 3". Also keep the colors to three plus the background color, the patch should have the year "2004", "International DX Convention", "Visalia, CA, USA", "SCDXC" and "NCDXC" on it. Other than that the design elements are up to you. The Visalia web site will have complete details and pictures of past winners as examples. The deadline for submission is November 1, 2003 and the winner will be voted on at the SCDXC November general meeting. Submit your entry in .jpg or .gif formats by e-

mail to 2004logo@scdxc.org or in person at the November meeting. You do not need to be a club member to enter.

Some thoughts on SPAM. During the 4-1/2 days I was out of town I got 1018 e-mails of which about 988 were Spam. I think we all agree that this is a major pain, in an attempt to avoid e-mail addresses listed in the web roster being harvested for the use of spammers, we have chosen to make the roster password protected. The roster is still available to all by using the following login "SCDXC" and password "Visalia". When you click on the link for the roster you will be prompted for a login and password. Simply type them exactly as shown above. They are both case-sensitive so be sure to turn off your caps lock and type using the correct case. If you have an scdxc.org e-mail address you may get spam at that address and also you may even see spam from an address at scdxc.org. Once a spammer gets a domain they use all sorts of schemes to generate e-mails to and from that domain. The webmaster gets e-mails to all sorts of names and such at scdxc.org. For example fred@scdxc.org which of course does not exist and gets bounced to the webmaster.

Some thoughts on VIRUSES. A similar thing will happen with viruses, a virus once in some ones computer can generate e-mails to or from anyone in your address book. In the case of the From address I have even seen them use a combination of e-mails in an address book to create an e-mail address. So if you get a virus e-mail from n6dhz@scdxc.org you can be 99.9% sure I did not actually send it to you. Someone got a virus and the virus got my e-mail and yours from their address book. I have also seen viruses use an existing e-mail message sitting in the infected computer and re-send it attaching the virus to make it look like it might be from a legitimate source. So my suggestion is that you use a good quality virus software and a software based firewall, not just the firewall built in to your router etc. If you don't do these two things the chances are you will end up with a virus sooner or later. If you would like my personal suggestions on which software to use please e-mail me at n6dhz@scdxc.org.

That's it for now and I look forward to seeing all of you at the October meeting.

73 DE Jim, N6DHZ



Ham Puzzle

By Milt, W6RJO



Bob, N6ET, sent in the correct answer to last months puzzle. VH had to build his antenna like this:

- a) Equilateral triangle
- b) 33 1/3 feet per side
- c) 78.8' (28.8' height for the delta loop + 50' from the base to the ground)
- d) Capture area is about 480 square feet

This month we are in the Electric Power Distribution Business.

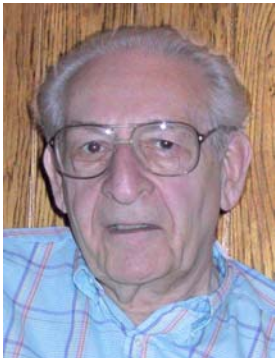
There are 82 110,000 volt lines between Los Angeles and San Francisco including some via Las Vegas. Also 62 of the lines between SF and Las Vegas include those via LA.

However, there are less than 300 of these lines between LA and Las Vegas including those via SF.

How many high voltage lines are there? Hint: Notice that all lines are counted more than once and the total number is less than any of the line numbers between cities mentioned above.

Propagation October 2003

by Shel, W6EL



These predictions for the five prime HF bands show the times when propagation is expected to be best from Los Angeles to several locations that are expected to be active during the coming month.

Other times are possible, but with weaker signals or lower probability. Openings are not expected on bands that are not listed. A solar flux of 110, corre-

sponding to a sunspot number of 59, and an average geomagnetic field are assumed. Sunrise/sunset times are at the DX location. All times are UTC.

Good luck and good DX from Shel, W6EL.

T8 Palau - 10/1 to 10/8 - Beam 285 degrees
 Sunrise/sunset 2039/0834
 80: 1000-1330.
 40: 0900-1330.
 20: 1500-1730 and around 0600.
 15: 2030-2130 and 0130-0330.
 10: 2130-2400.

EA8 Canary Islands - 10/2 to 10/14 - Beam 60 degrees
 Sunrise/sunset 0702/1837
 80: 0330-0630.
 40: 0200-0700.
 20: 2030-0330.
 15: 1500-2130.
 10: 1830-1930.

VK9 Christmas Island - 10/4 to 10/11 - Beam 290 degrees
 Sunrise/sunset 2241/1049
 80: 1230-1330.
 40: 1100-1400.
 20: 1500-1730 and around 0830.
 15: Around 1630.
 10: 2330-0030.

KP2 Virgin Is. - 10/4 to 10/12 - Beam 94 degrees
 Sunrise/sunset 1015/2159
 80: 0330-0930.
 40: 0130-1030.
 20: 2230-0330.
 15: 1500-2330.
 10: 1730-2100.

TA Turkey - 10/3 to 10/17 - Beam 22 degrees
 Sunrise/sunset 0353/1510
 80: Around 0300.
 40: 0100-0430.
 20: 1400-1630.
 15: Around 1630.

S7 Seychelles - 10/4 to 10/17 - Beam 12 degrees
 Sunrise/sunset 0303/1407
 20: 2330-0330. Long path 1400-1500 and around 0230.
 15: 1630-2300.

Update Needed

If you are using the ARRL.NET service, we request that you send us your real address. We now find that some services, including Earthlink, are refusing some mail from the ARRL.net because of the Spam problems with ARRL.NET. The lists we use to send messages are blocked at ARRL. We are forced to send most of our messages one by one. You will help a lot if we send directly. Or, ask the club webmaster to provide you with a SCDXC.ORG address.

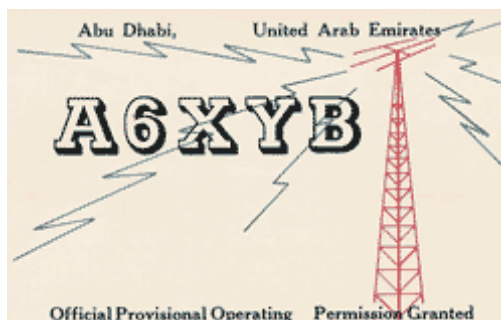
Steve's Corner

A Sched with A6 – The United Arab Emirates (UAE)

By the end of 1984, the CW DXCC award had been in full swing for ten years. I had worked 305 countries on CW. At this level, new ones are few and far between. One I still needed was A6. There had been very limited activity from the UAE. I set my sights on adding it to my total in 1985.

The UAE is located in the Middle East, on the Arabian Peninsula bordering the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf, between Oman and Saudi Arabia. The Trucial States of the Persian Gulf coast granted the UK control of their defense and foreign affairs in 19th century treaties. In 1971, six of these states - Abu Zaby, 'Ajman, Al Fujayrah, Ash Shariqah, Dubayy, and Umm al Qaywayn - merged to form the UAE. They were joined in 1972 by Ra's al Khaymah.

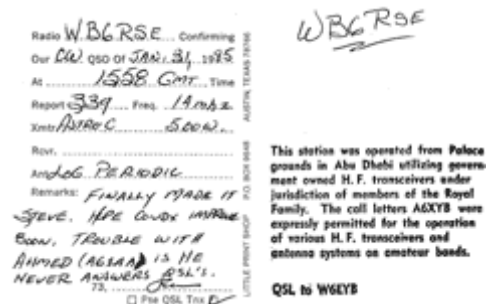
The population of the UAE is roughly two and a half million people, of which approximately 60% are non-nationals. It has a high per capita income and a sizable annual trade surplus. Its wealth is based on oil and gas production. Since 1973, it has undergone a transformation from an impoverished region of small desert principalities to a modern state with a high standard of living. At present levels of production, oil and gas reserves should last for more than 100 years. The UAE's official web site at <http://www.uaeinteract.com/default.asp> is highly informative.



Before 1972 the UAE's prefix came from the UK's MP4 block.

A6 had proven to be elusive. Lew Brown, W6EYB, had been reported QRV from the UAE while working as a contractor. In the quest for a "new one," I wrote to Lew in San Diego. We made plans for a schedule on his next trip. We were set for the morning (Los Angeles time) of Thursday, January 31, 1985, evening in the Emirates. Since it was a weekday, I planned on getting to the salt mine late and I was prepared to come down with the "UAE flu" if necessary! The rendezvous was set for CW on 14145, safely away from the madding crowd.

Conditions were horrible. I swung the TH6 both long and short path. I don't recall which direction was best. I think it was SP but I had been expecting LP at that time of year. I heard a faint signal but it was too weak to copy. The QRN and QSB were of no help either. I kept listening, hoping there might be an improvement in propagation, if only for a moment. My brother Elliott, WA6TLA, was also on frequency and having the same difficulties copying. Suddenly, I was startled by the ring of the telephone. It was Lew calling from the Royal Palace. "Where are you? I've been calling you!" I tuned again and finally heard him. He was *really* weak. I was listening to the TS830 with the phones on one ear and the telephone on the other. "I hear you!" I told Lew on the landline. He asked what call he should use? The choice was his personal one, A6XYB, or the one from the Palace, A61AA. Since the A61 was a relatively new prefix convention, I was suspect that it might not be accepted by the DXCC desk. XYB it was. Elliott and I



completed the exchanges and the then very rare A6 was finally in both of our logs. I was up to 306

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Those GREAT QSO's

This is Don, KH6DX/m, and I think the most memorable QSO's. I had was with ZX0A. The following e-mails tell the story.

Robin: _____

Wow !!! That would be great. I just finished answering an email from G3PQA, John, who I had recently worked on topband. I was telling him about my most memorable QSO on 160M and guess what ,it was our QSO with XZ0A... There is quite a story about that one from this end.

I tried to make the QSO for a week with out success. I did work you on other bands including 75M SSB but though I could hear you each morning I could not get thru. I drove from mountaintops to the Ocean beaches in an attempt to find the perfect place but figured I would have to give up when I had to go back on the Night Shift to work. This meant I couldn't go out during the pre-sunrise period. That time was the only time I stood a chance of making a contact. I was really disappointed.

When I got back to work I told everyone about my attempts and it was suggested that I go out to the truck during the early morning coffee break and give it a try. I didn't have much hope of a contact because we have high hills between our satellite station and the ocean to the west. I went out just before sunrise to see and when I turned the radio on there you were. I called a couple of times but no response. I decided to drive down the driveway a couple of hundred feet to get away from the steel buildings and big antennas.

I called again and just about had a heart attack when you said QRZ the mobile. I called again and we made the QSO. That was the best and longest DX contact on 160m for years.

I finally worked Peter, 9V1PC who was about 600Km further from this QTH but I will always remember the excitement I felt when I made that QSO with XZ0A..

Thanks for that fb QSO and yes please send the clip via e-mail

73 Don KH6DX/m.

--- Original Message -----

From: Robin <wa6cdr@cq160.net>
To: jystrib <jystrib@msn.com>
Cc: tza <wb6tza@socal.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 02, 2003 08:03
Subject: XZ0A

Hi Don

I am SLOWLY working on some audio files from the XZ trips. When I do finally get your QSO converted to a playable format, do you want me to send it to you as an attached MP3 file? How big a file can you handle that way? I have other ways we can do this, but attaching it to an e mail will be the easiest for me. I just don't want to bury your mailbox and internet connection without checking with you first.

I doubt Ill be done all that soon, but it is a summer project to do them all.

73

Robin, WA6CDR/XZ1N/XZ0A

Steve's Corner

(Continued from page 5)

worked, thanks! But the joy was to be short lived.

Exchanging QSLs was easy when Lew returned to San Diego. A check with the DXCC desk brought bad news. The Q would not count since there was no documentation for A6XYB on file. Lew told me that he was operating from the Royal Palace and was within 50 feet of several armed guards toting submachine guns. He had verbal permission to operate as a guest of the Royal Family — and he wasn't about to insult his hosts by asking for written authorization implying that their "word" wasn't good. Checkout the notes on the A6XYB QSL.

The DXCC desk did say that A61AA Qs would count! If I had the opportunity to do it again, I would have asked Lew to use both calls. While Indian Jones may have "Chosen wisely," I had not. Damn!

It was not until three years later when Jacky, F2CW, was signing A61AB in late February / early March of 1988 that I worked the UAE for a counter and on several bands to boot. My QSL file reveals subsequent operations up to the present from A61's AC, AD, AJ and AO. You likely have others.

Today, A6 isn't even semi-rare as A61AJ has a serious contest station in place usually manned by proficient guest ops. There have been some problems with the station logs, however. Some non-contest guest ops have been known to use scraps of paper instead of the logging program. This could be the cause of any delay you may experience in getting a card from manager N4QB. Joe researches all the Qs and the ones that are not in the logging database take time. If you still need a card, your best bet is to catch A61AJ during a contest. Or you could always try to arrange a sched.....

73, Steve WB6RSE

Soap Box— Words from our President

(Continued from page 2)

end, I have asked our club Treasurer, Paul N6AV, to write a check for \$1020 and send that to Club Secretary Jim N6DHz who will draft a letter on behalf of the club and send that to the ARRL immediately. We had a very spirited and lively discussion about this issue at the September meeting, and I left the meeting feeling a great sense of pride in the professionalism and support that our club members showed about this important issue.

In addition, we are also asking any SCDXC Club members that can afford it to get out their check books and write a check to the ARRL for the BPL Fund, and to send that check to our SCDXC Club Secretary – Jim N6DHz, before October 15, 2003. At that time, Jim is going to collect all of those checks and forward them to the ARRL with a letter showing the individual contributions from our club members. If you chose to this, **please make your check payable to the ARRL** and not to the SCDXC, **as your donation to the ARRL can probably be considered a charitable donation, and a check to the SCDXC will not be.**

(DISCLAIMER: THIS IS NOT INTENDED TO BE TAX ADVICE. PLEASE CONSULT A TAX ACCOUNTANT / TAX ATTORNEY TO DISCUSS YOUR PARTICULAR TAX SITUATION, etc, etc.)

Taking the lead on this, I have written a check to the ARRL for \$25.00 and given this to N6DHz. I know other Board Members including Skip – KJ6Y, and Larry, K6YUI have also done so. If you can help, please do so. If you can't, that's OK too, because you can help in other ways. (See below....)

If you are considering a contribution, please do so right away. Your assistance can make a tremendous difference. And we'll put a list of contributing SCDXC members on the SCDXC web-site next month as our way of saying thank you.

Even more importantly, I am encouraging you to write letters to your US Senator Barbara Boxer and Senator Dianne Feinstein, and your local Congressional District Congressman urging them to get involved against the FCC taking action to implement BPL.

**Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510**

There is a great concern that the FCC has already "made up its mind" on this issue, and it may be that ***the only way to ensure that it doesn't happen is from involvement from Congress.*** We have posted "talking point" documents on the SCDXC web site that you can use to send letters to your congressman. ***I encourage to send traditional postal mail letters to these politicians, as there is a higher likelihood of them being read and considered, and not getting lost in the form of email spam that affect us all. Use your computer to write up a solid letter urging your congressman to look at this issue, and put pressure on the FCC. Use a good old fashion envelope and some postage stamps and send it off right away.***

If you need more information on BPL, go to the ARRL website (www.arrl.org/BPL) for the full story, including copies of the two FCC filings and a video that clearly demonstrates the interference radio amateurs would experience from BPL. The video can be downloaded and played on your home PC, and there's a PowerPoint presentation this is very informative. Just follow the link above to an "Understanding the NOI" page and a resource page where you'll find the presentation.

ARRL President Jim Haynie calls BPL the biggest threat to Amateur Radio in decades. If BPL becomes a reality, many Amateur Radio activities, like Field Day, DXing, and contesting will be meaningless.

73 for now de Herb / KG6OK

LOGO Contest

You could win a FREE registration to the 2004 International DX Convention

All you have to do is design the winning logo for 2004. The logo contest is open to everyone and the winner will get a free registration to the 2004 Convention.

See the convention web site for details: <http://www.scdxc.org/visalia>

voice of the Veep

(Continued from page 2)

through the ARRL? I will have a print out of all that I have researched. Please bring your friends and listen to what David has to say and questions will be answered at the end of his presentation.

November 23 - Pat Marcy, W7PZ from ICOM, will be our speaker, she will update us on the new ICOM 7800 rig that is still waiting to be introduced to the amateur community. She will fill us in on the details and hopefully Rich will be able to purchase his soon!

December 7 - Holiday Party - Where: **Orange Hill Restaurant, Orange CA** Time: **12:30 - 3pm** - Price: **\$30. Speaker: Jim Zimmerman, N6KZ** - Presentation on his IOTA DXpedition to XF1K. If you were there last year.....yum yum, the food is delicious and much to much. You go for Brunch, but you can have Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner. I will get a menu and have it posted on the website. If you want to come and have a hard time getting around, please let me know and I will find someone who is coming from your area to maybe car-pool with you. e-mail k6vc@scdxc.org.

It's getting to be that time of the year again. Looking for positions to be filled on the board for 2004. As always there is usually a slate of people who are running, but here is your opportunity to help assist the club in planning for future activities. I will be taking a list of those who are interested. December we will let all know who is running and January will be our voting meeting.

Special Notice

Escaped Electron

A reward of 500 microFarads is offered for information leading to the arrest and conduction of Hopalong Capacity.

This unrectified criminal escaped from a Weston Primary Cell where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the Gauss chamber.

He is charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named Milli Henry, who was found choked and robbed of valuable Joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer.

Hopalong Capacity is also charged with driving a DC motor over the Wheatstone Bridge and refusing to let the bandpass. He is considered dangerous and if encountered may offer series resistance.

The Electromotive Force spent the night searching for him in the Magnetic Field where he had gone to Earth. They had no success and believe Capacity returned Ohm via a Short Circuit. He was last seen riding a Kilocycle with his friend Eddy Current, who was heard playing "Ohm on the Range" on his harmonic.

NEEDED AND WANTED

Articles, QSLs, notes of interest for the SCDXC Newsletter.

Highest price paid for all stuff printed.

Send to the editor, K6EXO@scdxc.org

FROM THE OFFICE OF MEMBERSHIP

Why wait - be one of the first.

Please

It is ok to now start sending in your dues for 2004.

Please

don't wait till the end of the year.

Please

do it now - please -

only \$18.00 for one year. Please

did I say please?

Thank you.

Larry - k6yui - membership -

KENWOOD MOVED

FYI, the Kenwood Service Center West has moved. New location: 17300 Marquardt Ave, Cerritos 90703, just two buildings north of Artesia on Marquardt. Their new location is about a mile east of their former spot at Alondra and Shoemaker. Phones remain the same: (562) 483-8740 voice, (562)483-8749 fax. Suggested route: Artesia Freeway 91 east past the 605 to the Bloomfield Ave offramp, south on Bloomfield to Artesia (it comes up immediately), then east on Artesia to Marquardt. Left (north) on Marquardt to KSC.

...Chuck KN6H



Welcome to Art's Shack

Recently Larry, K6YUI and I spent a couple of interesting hours at the QTH of Art Enockson, W6EA. Art is a charter member of the SCDXC and was present at the very first meeting in 1947, and is the only three time past president of the SCDXC. Art and his wife Virginia live in Buena Park, CA. Their home is pleasing to both the ham and non-ham alike, with a large beautifully landscaped yard and an 89 ft tower with a fully equipped shack to boot.

The shack is located in a separate air-conditioned room that is off the garage and is equipped with everything a DXer would need, including a TV for when the bands are dead. The first thing your notice as your enter is the "standby" amplifier. Standing about 6 ft tall, the homebrew amp with a single 4-1000 can be driven by the Kenwood TL-922 if required to get that "new one". Now with that said one must remember there are no "new ones" for Art and for that mater there are only four old ones. Art has all 335 current and a total of 389 DXCC entities confirmed.



The radios are a FT-1000D, TS-850, FT-100, and a 2m radio for packet. Antennas include a log periodic, 20m Yagi, 30m rotatable dipole, 3 element 40m Yagi, and slopers for 80m and 160m all on an 89 ft tower. The shack also includes the usual array of computers, rotor controls, antenna switches etc.

The next thing that will catch your eye is the wall of QSL cards and what a collection it is. Most of the cards are from places I have only seen on the deleted list. You know the

kind of places members talk about having worked way back when while sipping refreshments at Visalia.



Art first got interested in radio back in the thirties when he heard these strange noises coming from a neighbor's garage and investigated to find... you guessed it a Ham. Art's dad (pictured here with Art circa 1935) was not real



pleased with the neighbor or Art's new found interest. You see in those days TVI was not a problem, but interference with the Enockson family radio in the evenings was. But Art's dad soon warmed to this new interest of Art's. After mentioning the interference to the Ham next door, he in true Elmer fashion helped Art build a filter to tune out the offending noise on the family radio. So the next time that buzz came over the radio Art was able to fiddle with something in the back of the radio and viola the noise was gone. After that Art's dad figured maybe the neighbor and ham radio were not such a bad thing after all.

Art was first licensed in 1934 as W6MUB, is a regular at club meetings and Visalia. Art is retired after spending 42 years in the employ of "Ma Bell". He now spends his time tuning the bands and if your listen carefully you might even catch

Art having a QSO in Swedish.

A Letter to the editor

Randy, W6SJ, sent this note — he was reminded of the time when he first started out in the hobby and he wanted to share: —

Dear Harvey,
I'm sorry that I missed the picnic. You can imagine what the mortgage business is like this year! I've been working on Sat instead of having fun.

I want to tell you that your message in the newsletter was particularly meaningful to me. You really captured the magic that resonates in me as well, and brought back a lot of memories.

I, too, was a ham as a 14 year old kid and got up at weird hours to work DX. in 1952 we were at the bottom of the cycle and I only had a 40 m rig, but we could get into EU pretty regularly. Problem was that EU was still war-ravaged at that time and there simply weren't that many hams. They were trying to scrape enough to eat and they didn't have money for things like

rigs! I did have regular "signal strength" skeds with OK1MB, which was behind the iron curtain at that time. I think that the few Russian hams were forbidden to talk with anyone in the US.

One bizarre morning I had QSO's with Fiji (different prefix back then) and ZL, within about 5 minutes. It was one of those strange openings that, when they come along, make you thankful that we're in this hobby.

I've had a few in the last year too, one late afternoon a LP opening to VU and 4S on 20 meters and an early morning opening to Oman on 40 m!!!!!!

I've been working DX now for just about 1 year and have 154 so far, with QSLs from about 120, mostly on CW. There are a few on SSB - VK9 - that don't seem to work CW. I am somewhat astonished by the fairly large number of people to whom I sent a SAE and \$1 who didn't respond. Maybe they stick the \$1 in their pocket and send the card to the buro. I hope so. I got an eQSL on my only Madagascar QSO so hope I can get a "real" one soon. The worst has to be EA6UN who

wants \$3 and then still doesn't send one back! It's not that there are that many other opportunities in Mallorca.

Anyway, I'm hoping that I can pick up a few more during the IARU contest next weekend.

I got a new rig, a IC-756PROII, but still have my Force 12 vertical and my stealth 40m dipole up 9', so I'm handicapped by not having a decent antenna. I continue to get them one or two a week. Got Wake Island (finally) last week, first time I've ever heard anyone from there.

Anyway, my thanks for your wonderful message. I've been working on a piece for QST about the "magic" of CW. The requirement seems destined to disappear soon, but I think that there are guys who are leaving the hobby who might find satisfaction in code proficiency and the joy of the purity of that mode of operation.

73,
Randy W6SJ



Here are a few more photos of Art's shack. The club website has a few more

The SCDXC Newsletter needs your inputs. Now is the best time to gather a few QSLs and tell us your story.

FOR SALE ALPHA

For you Alpha aficionados, a beautiful Alpha 374 amplifier is available. Runs a cool kw+ with three 8874 tubes. Pictures at www.alpha-amps.com/html/374pix.htm.

Only 380 of these gems were built by Dick Ehrhorn (ETO Technologies) from 1974 to early 1978. Has been on the shelf of a 102-yr old ham for over 20 years and is being liquidated for whatever the market will bear. Pricing suggestions welcome. Contact Chuck KN6H anytime at (310) 325-3184

Who We Are

The SCDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is e-mailed to all club members.

Please notify the editor if you do not receive your newsletter, have a change of address, or have found an error.

Please direct all submissions to the editor.

The SCDXC generally permits re-use of any article in the Newsletter as long as the newsletter and the article's author are credited. However, some articles may be copyrighted by the author. Please contact the editor.

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No charge to members

SCDXC Tee Shirts are US \$10.00 each. Please specify size (M, L, XL, XXL)

Hats are US\$10.00 each

Check the web page for instructions on placing your order.

ROHN SK

ROHN Industries (OTCBB: ROHN) announced September 16 that the Company and five of its direct and indirect subsidiaries have filed voluntary petitions for Chapter 11 relief in the United States Bankruptcy Court


SURF the WEB

The greatest web site on the Internet is www.scdxc.org. There you will find everything you ever wanted to know about the Southern California DX Club. An organization devoted to the furtherance of DX and Pizza.

ZS5BBO

Club member Edwin Musto, ZS5BBO wanted to let the club members know he is usually QRV on +/-14.205 most Saturdays and Sundays from about 1300 UTC onwards on the long path into the USA. Edwin said to be sure to mention that your an SCDXC member when you work him.

He is also planning to be here for Visalia so work him now and get the cards in April.



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IARU — Kill CW Requirement

The council urged IARU member-societies to call to the attention of their administrations "the desirability of adopting specific changes in their domestic regulations for the amateur and amateur-satellite services, so that they will be consistent with the revised Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations." In that vein, the IARU governing body called for the removal of Morse code as an examination requirement to operate on HF. The council reiterated its stance first taken in 2001 that Morse code proficiency "as a qualifying criterion for an HF amateur license is no longer relevant to the healthy future of amateur Radio."

"IARU policy is to support the removal of Morse code testing as a requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz," the IARU Administrative Council resolved. At the same time, the council's resolution recognized Morse code as "an effective and efficient mode of communication used by many thousands of radio amateurs." It also took into account ITU-Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Recommendation M.1544, which sets down the minimum qualifications of radio amateurs.